

The Task Force has worked to find ways to improve Federal education programs that serve Hispanic Americans. By enhancing the educational opportunities available to Americans of Spanish and Latin American descent, we can help to promote their continued social and economic advancement.

In recognition of the outstanding achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved September 17, 1968, as amended by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the month beginning September 15 and ending October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month beginning September 15, 1990, and ending October 15, 1990, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Sept. 24, 1990 on signing Proclamation 6186, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 26, p. 1437).

Proclamation 6187 of September 26, 1990

Gold Star Mother's Day, 1990

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Few Americans could have a more profound understanding of the price of freedom than our Nation's Gold Star Mothers. These proud and courageous women are the mothers of U.S. military personnel who have perished in the line of duty.

Anyone who has been blessed with children knows that there is no greater heartache than losing a son or daughter. The mothers of those brave and selfless Americans who have died to defend the lives and liberty of others have suffered greatly, yet they have also inspired us with their unflinching faith and patriotism. These women, known as Gold Star Mothers, merit our lasting respect and gratitude.

In his now-famous letter to Mrs. Lydia Bixby, a Boston widow who was reported to have lost several sons during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln wrote:

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming, but I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic that they died to save. I pray that the Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

The American Gold Star Mothers have likewise made an enormous sacrifice for our country, and, on this occasion, we echo President Lincoln's timeless appeal.

Whether they made their final stand for liberty and justice on the beaches of Normandy during World War II, on the harsh terrain of Korea and Vietnam, or, more recently, in places such as Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, and the Persian Gulf region, those heroic Americans who have died while defending the cause of peace and freedom will never be forgotten. To the women who nurtured in them a love of God and country, as well as a sense of duty and concern for others, we offer a heartfelt salute.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 (June 23, 1936), designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 30, 1990, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon all government officials to display the United States flag on government buildings on this day. I also urge the people of the United States to display the flag and to hold appropriate meetings in their homes, churches, synagogues, or other suitable places, as a public expression of the love, sorrow, and reverence that our Nation holds for American Gold Star Mothers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6188 of September 28, 1990

National Job Skills Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Throughout most of the past decade, the United States has enjoyed remarkable, uninterrupted economic growth. This Nation's prosperity and its continued leadership in global economic affairs are, in large part, a tribute not only to the ingenuity and drive of American workers but also to the traditional strength of our academic institutions and the fundamental validity of free market principles.

As we approach the 21st century, however, the United States faces significant new challenges. Remaining a leader in the increasingly competitive global marketplace will require greater knowledge and improved skills among members of our labor force—knowledge and skills that will enable them to keep pace with continued advances in science and technology. A projected slowdown in work force growth and other demographic changes, such as the changing age profile of our work